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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Eighth session
Geneva, 5-16 February 1996
Agenda item 2

# PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Note by the Secretariat

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. After discussion of the programme and budget at the seventh session of the INCD, both in Working Group I and in the Committee, the INCD adopted decision 7/4. This decision invited the Interim Secretariat to "submit a revised version of document A/AC.241.36 related to programme and budget at the eight session, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at its seventh session." This note responds to that request.

2. In preparing this note the Secretariat took account of discussions and decisions at the seventh session not only regarding the programme and budget but also regarding closely related topics. These included financial rules, administrative arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat and location of the Permanent Secretariat. The note reflects individual points made by delegations in Working Group I as well the tentative agreement that emerged on the overall structure of the programme of work and the general categories to be used in presenting the budget. It takes account of, but does not repeat, background material found in document A/AC.41/36.

3. The note is structured to reflect the elements of the three decisions that the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) needs to take on the programme and budget. They are decisions on: (a) the programme of work of the COP, (b) the core budget of the Convention and issues related to it, and (c) special purpose funds. These decisions are taken pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(g) of the Convention regarding the adoption of a programme and budget and to the financial rules approved in accordance with article 22, subparagraph 2(e). The note lays out not only the elements of the decisions themselves but the nature of the supporting materials the Secretariat would present. In reading it, delegations will need to refer to the revised financial rules in document A/AC.241/45.

4. After discussing this note, Working Group I may wish to consider an INCD decision which would request the Secretariat to use it, taking account of comments by delegations at the eight session, as a basis for preparing appropriate draft decisions of the COP, a draft programme of work, detailed budget estimates and supporting materials. This documentation could be presented for consideration by the INCD at the last session prior to the first session of the COP on the basis of the evolution of the Committee's consideration of other items on the COP's agenda. Particularly important in this regard would be the location of the Permanent Secretariat, the arrangements for its functioning and the substantive task to be assigned to it in initial implementation of the Convention.

## II. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE OF PARTIES

5. The COP decision on its programme of work would cover items to be considered at its first and second sessions, that is through the end of the first financial period specified in paragraph 2 of the draft financial rules. The programme of work would have two parts: standing items, or substantive matters the COP would normally take up at all its sessions, and selected agenda items that the COP would review periodically.

6. The following are examples of standing items:

(a) review of the implementation of the Convention, and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, subparagraphs 2(a) and 2(b), and article 26 of the Convention;

(b) review, pursuant to article 22, subparagraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the COP and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(c) review, pursuant to the same article, of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(d) review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, subparagraph 2(b) of the Convention; and

(e) adoption or adjustment of the programme and budget.

7. Selected agenda items could include topics such as:

(a) specific scientific, technical and technological matters detailed in articles 16-18 and 24-25 of the Convention, which are listed in the annex to document A/AC.241/37;

(b) cooperation in the areas of capacity building, education and public awareness detailed in article 19 of the Convention;

(c) consideration of financial approaches and policies pursuant to article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to the extent that is not done in providing guidance to the Global Mechanism;

(d) promotion and strengthening of relationships with other conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, subparagraph 2(i) of the Convention;

(e) consideration and adoption, pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, of procedures and mechanisms for resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation (if not accomplished at the first session of the COP);

(f) adoption, in accordance with article 28, subparagraph 2(a) of the Convention, of an annex containing arbitration procedures (if not accomplished at the first session of the COP); and

(g) periodic consideration of any amendments to the Convention that Parties propose pursuant to article 31 of the Convention.

## III. CORE BUDGET AND RELATED ISSUES

8. The COP decision on the core budget and related issues would have a number of elements, which the following parts of this section describe.

### A. Core budget

9. The first session of the COP would adopt, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the financial rules, the core budget of the Convention for the upcoming biennium, based on the estimates that the head of the Permanent Secretariat presents pursuant to paragraph 3 of the rules. In accordance with the rules, core budget expenditures would be financed by contributions according to the scale referred to in subparagraph 12(a) of the rules. They would also be funded by any additional contributions made pursuant to subparagraphs 12(b) and 12(c) of the rules for the specific purpose of offsetting core budget expenditures by the Government hosting the Permanent Secretariat, and by the institution within the framework of which the Permanent Secretariat is placed for administrative purposes.

10. The host government and the host institution could also provide personnel or services directly from their own budgets, which the COP would have to take account of in its decision. For example, the General Assembly could, at the request of the INCD, subject to confirmation by the COP, make provision in the regular budget of the United Nations for conference services for the second and third sessions of the COP, as it is already doing for the first session. It might possibly also, as a number of delegations have suggested, approve regular budget appropriations covering a portion of the core expenditures of the Permanent Secretariat.

11. The core budget adopted by the COP would contain the following main appropriation lines.

(a) Policy making organs, including all expenditures directly connected with holding meetings of the COP and the Committee on Science and Technology, particularly conference services, and any expenses not otherwise reimbursed by host governments for travel of staff members of the Permanent Secretariat to COP sessions held away from its site

(b) Executive direction and management, including the staff costs and travel expenses (when not directly attributable to another programme) of the head of the Permanent Secretariat, of personnel in his or her immediate office and of other staff members with overall management and administrative responsibilities

(c) Review of implementation, including expenditures for staff, and possibly travel, consultants, experts and contractual services, authorized to support the communication of information by Parties and the review of such information by the COP

(d) Document preparation and legal support, including expenditures on staff costs, travel and consultants involved in drafting documents for COP sessions, except those in the areas of review of implementation and science and technology, and in providing legal advice

(e) Science and technology, including:

(i) expenditures for staff costs and travel of members of the Permanent Secretariat preparing documents for, and otherwise supporting, the activities of the Committee on Science and Technology, except expenditures covered in subparagraph (a), as well as the costs of any consultants required, and

(ii) all the expenditures connected with the establishment and maintenance of a roster of experts and with the work of ad hoc panels appointed by the COP in accordance with article 24, subparagraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention

(f) Facilitation of implementation, including:

(i) any expenditures for the Global Mechanism not absorbed by the institution hosting it that are charged to the Convention budget; and

(ii) expenditures for staff costs, travel, consultants and contractual services connected to the public information, external relations, coordination and other facilitation activities of the Permanent Secretariat, with governments, other convention secretariats, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including the facilitation of consultative processes in accordance with article 18, paragraph 4, of the regional implementation annex for Africa, article 8, paragraph 3, of the Asian annex and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Latin American and Caribbean annex, as well as any appropriate facilitative activities in support of the regional implementation annex for the Northern Mediterranean

(g) Administrative support, including expenditures for rental and maintenance of premises; utilities; purchase, rental and maintenance of furniture and equipment; communications, supplies and materials; and any programme support charges owed to the institution within the framework of which the Permanent Secretariat is placed

12. The Secretariat would present the following materials in connection with adoption of the core budget:

(a) A draft decision, including a table showing:

(ii) total projected expenditures in each main appropriation line for each year of the biennium,

(iii) expenditures required to constitute the working capital reserve that the COP approves,

(iv) contributions financing the expenditures in (i) and (ii) from each of the sources referred to in paragraph 9 above, and

(v) assumptions regarding services provided by the host government and the host institution from their own budgets

(b) Tables showing the breakdown of expenditures for each programme category into the following high-level object-of-expenditure categories, which are adapted from the standard United Nations classification to take account of the likely size of the Convention budget, as well as activities that might be involved in implementing the Convention:

(i) conference services, including expenditures for premises, equipment rental, interpretation, translation, document processing, registration of delegates, hospitality, temporary assistance and other conference services connected with meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies;

(ii) staff costs, including the total of the salaries, differentials, allowances and entitlements of the staff of the Permanent Secretariat and of any general temporary assistance staff integrated in its operations;

(iii) consultants, experts and contractual services, including the fees and travel expenses of consultants, of personal service and institutional contractors and of experts participating in ad hoc panels pursuant to article 24, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Convention, as well as payments to outside entities for training of Permanent Secretariat staff, for translations, for the production and distribution of publications and other public affairs materials, and for data processing services;

(iv) official travel of staff, including the travel expenses of members of the Permanent Secretariat to United Nations headquarters, to sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, to other intergovernmental meetings, to relevant seminars, workshops and conferences and to consultations with governments and other secretariats;

(v) administrative expenses, including expenditures for rental and maintenance of premises; utilities; purchase, rental and maintenance of furniture and equipment; communications, supplies and materials; and

(vi) programme support charges, that is payments for services rendered by the organization or organizations providing administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat, often expressed as a percentage of expenditures against funds administered for the COP by the organizations

(c) A table summarizing budget requirements by high level object-of-expenditure category

(d) Tables showing the person years of staff requirements for each programme category by level of post

(e) Narrative sections that:

(i) outline activities in each programme category and give details about expenditures and staff requirements, including breakdowns of high-level object-of-expenditure categories into subcategories;

(ii) explain the estimation of contributions and the operation of the working capital reserve;

(iii) give details about the functions of the Permanent Secretariat staff post by post; and

(iv) reproduce materials provided by the institution housing the Global Mechanism (GM) to justify any GM expenditures to be financed by the COP

B. Core staff of the Permanent Secretariat

13. As part of its decision on the core budget, the COP would approve a table setting out the core staff requirements of the Permanent Secretariat for the biennium, showing the number of posts, if any, at each level (Head, D2, D1, P5, P4, P3, P1/P2 and General Services). In presenting a draft of this table, in addition to the supporting material described in paragraph 12, subparagraph (e)(iii) above, the Secretariat would also provide, as background, an overall organization chart of the Permanent Secretariat, including and clearly distinguishing staff paid from the special purpose trust funds or subaccounts discussed below.

C. Scale of contributions

14. In accordance with paragraph 13 of the financial rules, the COP shall determine the scale for annual contributions by Parties referred to in subparagraph 12(a) of the rules, which would be based on the United Nations scale with certain adjustments. To facilitate this decision, an appendix to the core budget estimates would show the percentage scale of contributions and translate that scale into the absolute value of contributions required from each Party for each year of the biennium. The latter would depend on the size of the core budget, as approved, on the level of the working capital reserve and on expected contributions from the Government hosting the Permanent Secretariat and from the institution in the framework of which it is placed.

15. At the seventh session of the INCD, several delegations asked for examples of the percentage scale. At the beginning of the eighth session, the Secretariat will provide a table showing such percentages on the assumption that all Governments and regional economic integration organizations that signed the Convention, or acceded to it by the end of January 1996, would be Parties. This table will present alternative percentages to demonstrate the impact of various adjustments under discussion in the negotiation of subparagraph 13(b) of the financial rules.

D. Other elements of core budget decision

16. In addition to the factors above, a number of other elements would enter into the COP decision on the core budget and related issues. The COP would, in particular:

(a) determine, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the financial rules, the limits up to which the head of the Permanent Secretariat may make transfers between the main appropriation lines of the core budget;

(b) determine, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the financial rules, the size of the working capital reserve (if the rules themselves do not do so );

(c) note the timing of annual contributions by Parties and urge prompt and full payment; and

(d) request the head of the Permanent Secretariat to report on income and budget performance at the following session, in particular by comparing budget estimates with actual expenditures, and to propose any adjustments needed in the core budget.

## IV. SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDING

17. As presently drafted, the financial rules provide for two special purpose trust funds or subaccounts to receive from a variety of sources contributions other than contributions dedicated to financing the core budget:

(a) a supplementary trust fund or subaccount for facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in compiling and communicating information, as well as identifying technical and financial needs associated with action programmes, for support to the participation of non-governmental organizations in COP session, and for other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention, such as public information and awareness raising activities; and

(b) a special trust fund or subaccount to support the participation in COP sessions of representatives from developing countries eligible under the rules for this support (either affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed among them, or solely affected least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, depending on the outcome of negotiations on this point).

18. The COP would not formally approve expenditures from these two trust funds or subaccounts, however, it would, after reviewing budget estimates for them, adopt a decision, separate from that regarding the core budget, which:

(a) notes the estimates for each of them for each year of the biennium;

(b) notes and welcomes contributions to them already pledged from governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources;

(c) notes any balance to be carried over to them from the two extrabudgetary funds established by General Assembly resolution 47/188;

(d) invites further contributions to them; and

(e) requests the head of the Permanent Secretariat to report to the second COP session on their status and to propose any adjustments needed in their management.

19. In presenting separate tables, estimates and supporting materials for the supplementary trust fund or subaccount, the Secretariat would parallel the procedures that Section II above outlines for the core budget. In doing so, the Secretariat would, as needed, select appropriate programme and object-of-expenditure categories from those listed. One additional object-of-expenditure category would be required: grants, that is transfers to governments or organizations for purposes such as those listed in subparagraph 17(a) above.

20. The separate tables, estimates and supporting materials that the Secretariat would present for the voluntary trust fund or subaccount would be simpler. Expenditures in this case would be entirely in one programme category, policy making organs, and one object-of-expenditure category not used elsewhere, travel of participants. Narrative justification for the estimates would be similar to that which the Secretariat presently provides for expenditures under the Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly Resolution 47/188 for the participation in sessions of the INCD of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, in particular the least developed countries.

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# ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

## Note by the Secretariat

## Introduction

The present document was prepared in accordance with INCD decision 7/9, which requested the Secretariat to prepare, for the eighth session, draft terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) on the basis of comments and suggestions made at the seventh session and of any further views that might be communicated by its members to the Interim Secretariat.

Section one contains draft terms of reference of the CST prepared by the Secretariat together with a recommendation to, and a draft decision by, the Conference of the Parties (COP). It is based on comments and suggestions at the seventh session and written contributions received thereafter. In preparing this draft, the Secretariat also reviewed precedents of similar bodies established pursuant to other instruments. Several paragraphs of the draft terms of reference are drawn entirely or in part from the Convention. They are paragraphs 1, 2 (a) (i), 2 (a) (iii), 2 (a) (iv), 3, 4, 5, 10 and 14. Subject to guidance by the INCD, the Secretariat will be in a position to prepare a revised draft based on discussions in Working Group II at the eighth session.

Section two reproduces a compilation prepared by the Secretariat during the seventh session (doc. A/AC.241/WG.II(VII)/CRP.1) on the questions of the roster of independant experts and ad hoc panels. The compilation is not a negotiating text as it reflects the totality of the views expressed by INCD members on these topics at the seventh session. Thus, proposals overlap and may be contradictory.

## SECTION ONE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### I. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

*The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,*

*Recalling* its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234, of 23 December 1994,

*Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall decide, at its first session, on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

*Having reviewed* the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

*Decides* to adopt the terms of reference attached to the present decision.

## II. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology (the "Committee") is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties. The role of the Committee is to provide the Conference of the Parties with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought to ensure that its decisions are based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

### Functions

2. Consistent with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its articles 16 to 18 and 24, the functions of the Committee are as follows.

*(a) Advisory functions*

(i) Respond to requests by the Conference of the Parties for scientific and technological information needed to implement the Convention, recognizing that the Conference of the Parties may, pursuant to article 22, paragraphs 2(h) and 8 of the Convention, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent national and international organizations, intergovernmental or non-governmental

(ii) Monitor, and assess the impact of, developments in science and technology leading to a better understanding of desertification or increased capability in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought

(iii) Advise the Conference of the Parties on the possible implications of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge for programmes and activities under the Convention, particularly in connection with the review of implementation pursuant to paragraph 22 (2) (a) of the Convention

(iv) Advise, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, on research priorities for particular regions and sub-regions reflecting different local conditions

(v) Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the establishment of ad hoc panels to provide advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in the fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, including general guidelines and recommendations on the terms of reference, composition and duration of the panels

(vi) Advise, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, on the structure, membership and maintenance of the roster of independant experts

*(b) Data and information functions*

(i) Make recommendations, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, regarding the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification

(ii) Make recommendations, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, on pertinent, quantifiable and readily verifiable indicators which might be used in connection with national action programmes

*(c) Research and review functions*

(i) Make recommendations, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, regarding specialized research on, and evaluation of, scientific and technological issues necessary to implement the Convention

(ii) Identify, as appropriate, new scientific and technological approaches with particular reference to multidisciplinary aspects of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought

(iii) Promote co-operative and comparative research between regions with different cultural and socio-economic constraints

*(d) Functions related to technology*

(i) Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to identify technology, knowledge, know-how and practices relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought

(ii) Make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to promote the exchange of information regarding technology, knowledge, know-how and practices, including through the network referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4

*(e) Evaluation functions*

(i) Monitor the application of science and technology to research projects relating to the implementation of the Convention and report to the Conference of the Parties

(ii) Examine the scientific and technological quality and feasibility of research conducted pursuant to action programmes under the Convention

Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

3. In accordance with article 25 of the Convention, the Committee shall, under the supervision of the Conference of the Parties, make provision for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support the implementation of the Convention. Such evaluation shall be carried out in cooperation with relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.

4. On the basis of the results of the survey and evaluation referred to in paragraph 3, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to facilitate and strengthen networking of the units at the local, national and other levels, with a view to ensuring that the thematic needs set out in articles 16 to 19 of the Convention are addressed.

Composition and Bureau

5. The Committee shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. It shall be composed of government representatives competent in fields of expertise relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

6. Each Party my designate one or more experts, on the basis of their recognized competence, to participate in the sessions of the Committee. However, a Party may not be represented by more than one expert at any meeting of the Committee.

7. The Committee shall elect four Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chairperson, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they shall constitute the Bureau. The Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected from among the experts present at the session with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa. They shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Programme of work and reports

8. The Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which may include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.

9. The Committee shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on its work.

Sessions of the Committee

10. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

Liaison with scientific community and cooperation with international organizations

11. The Committee shall serve as a liaison between the Conference of the Parties and the scientific community. In carrying out its functions, it shall, in particular, seek to facilitate the exchange of information relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought between the Conference of the Parties and the scientific community.

12. The Committee shall keep itself informed of the activities of the scientific advisory committees of other Conventions and of relevant international organizations, and shall coordinate its activities and cooperate closely with such organizations to avoid duplication of work and optimize results.

Transparency and availibility of work

13. The results of the work of the Committee shall be in the public domain. Any documents shall be fully and freely accessible to those interested and in a form easily usable. They shall be made available by the Permanent Secretariat through the most efficient and least expensive means of communication.

Support by the Permanent Secretariat

14. In accordance with article 23 of the Convention, the Permanent Secretariat shall make arrangements for sessions of the Committee and provide it with services as required

## SECTION TWO

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The following is a compilation of proposals by members of Working Group II at the seventh session, both orally and in writing, on 1) the roster of independant experts and 2) ad hoc panels. To facilitate the deliberations of the Working Group, the proposals are grouped under various sub-headings. When proposals are drawn directly from the Convention, reference is made to the relevant articles.

2. Unlike Section I of the present document, the present Section is not intended to be a negotiating text. It represents the totality of the views expressed on these matters, brought together under various sub-headings. Thus, it includes items that overlap and are contradictory. Discussions at the eighth session will provide the Secretariat with the guidance necessary to prepare a negotiating text on these issues for the ninth session.

### II. ROSTER OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

#### A. General comments

3. The Conference of Parties (COP) shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts from which ad hoc panels may be selected, in accordance with article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention. The roster shall contain information regarding names, means of contact, a brief description of fields of expertise, and availability. It shall be maintained by the Permanent Secretariat.

4. The roster has no actual mandate, and will receive no instructions. It exists solely as a source of members for *ad hoc* Panels.

5. The purpose of the roster of independant experts is to provide an updated list representive of the existing relevant scientific community. It will serve as a resource to which the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) may turn for assistance in advising the COP.

#### B. Selection of experts to be included on the roster

6. The Roster should be based on nominations received in writing from the Parties. Nominations would be submitted to the CST for consideration. After review of credentials of the nominees by the CST, recommendations would be made to the COP for inclusion on the Roster, as appropriate.

7. The CST should ensure that the Roster is evenly formed so that scientists and independent experts from different areas of specialisation and from the different geographical areas are adequately represented. It should report to the COP on significant modifications to the Roster.

8. The COP should ensure that there is adequate representation from all geographical zones and relevant areas of specialisation.

9. Nominations are to be made by the Parties in writing, each Party nominating experts in various fields to ensure the multidisciplinary character of the roster. All nominations shall become part of the roster.

10. Nominations are to come from Parties and should be submitted in writing to the CST for consideration.

11. Nominees should have demonstrated expertise and experience in fields relevant to desertification and mitigation of the effects of drought, and have the time and facilities available to perform the tasks that may be required.

12. Each Party shall only nominate its own nationals for inclusion on the roster.

13. The Parties need not limit their nominations to experts from their own country. They may nominate experts regardless of their nationality.

14. There should be one expert per Party. There could be groups of experts on a regional basis.

15. The CST shall circulate the roster to all Parties, members of the UN system, private organizations, academic centers and NGOs, as well as to any other interested organizations.

16. Nominees may be from non-governmental organizations, but may not be nominated by such organizations.

17. Sub-regional organizations could assist in drawing up the roster of experts.

### C. Disciplines to be represented

18. The CST should propose to the COP a list of multidisciplinary areas to be reflected in a balanced fashion in the roster, such as:

(a) Climate: agro-meteorology, drought prediction, climate change;

(b) Land and soil resources: productivity, conservation,degradation, land management;

(c) Water resources; hydrological planning, integrated management of ground and surface water, water pollution and quality;

(d) Vegetation and wildlife: biodiversity management and conservation, relation to soil and water conservation, protection against fires.

(e) Agriculture and forestry: traditional and modern systems, wildfires, land restoration, soil and water conservation, pasture and rangeland management;

(f) Social and economic sciences: economics, sociology, anthropology, geography, migration policies, alternative livelihoods and alternative energy sources.

19. The roster of experts should reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to implement articles 16 to 19 of the Convention, including the participation of experts from grassroots organizations and NGOs.

20. The roster could be open-ended, or it could be limited to a number determined by having five to ten experts for each discipline.

21. There should be no limit to the number of experts on the roster, the sole critiria being their relevant expertise.

### D. Financial support

22. All developed country Parties that make nominations should agree to fund any participation of their nominees in the work of the CST, including their nominees who may be from other countries and NGOs.

## III. AD HOC PANELS

### A. General comments

23. Ad hoc Panels are governed by the specifications laid down in Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

24. The main function of the ad hoc panels is to provide information and advice to the COP, through the CST, on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. (based on Article 24 of the Convention)

25. The COP may appoint ad hoc Panels, as necessary, to provide it with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in relevant fields of science and technology. The COP identifies issues to be studied and determines their priority.

26. Panels should be appointed from the roster of independent experts, on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, ensuring their composition reflects a multi-disciplinary approach and broad geographical representation where appropriate.

27. Panels should report to the Conference of Parties through the Committee on Science and technology. The Conference of Parties may ask the Committee to review reports from ad hoc Panels and make recommendations based upon them. The Committee shall not have the power to revise reports from the ad hoc panels.

28. The terms of reference of each panel shall be defined by the COP according to the needs of each case.

B. Composition and size

29. The COP should define, acording to the specific needs of each case, the composition and number of members on each panel and shall also designate a coordinator to conduct its work.

30. The size of each panel should not be predetermined. It can vary depending on the issue being considered. However, it should be kept small, providing balanced geographical representation.

31. Panels should be composed of not more than twelve members. The COP should appoint a co-ordinator, from among the members, to manage the work of each panel and to compile its report.

32. Panel members are chosen from experts listed on the roster of independant experts. They are not members of the CST.

33. Work of the ad hoc panels should be done by correspondence wherever possible. If meetings are necessary, members' expenses shall be reimbursed.

34. When necessary the COP should make arrangements for financial support to be provided to the ad hoc Panels. Developed country Parties shall support the expenses of their own nominees.

C. Number of ad hoc panels

35. Ad hoc panels should not be restricted to a specific number.

36. There could be two ad hoc panels: one charged with making a synthesis of existing knowledge and to initiate new research; the other charged with providing scientific advice on how to put to use the knowledge and know-how to combat desertification. The panels would make recommendations to the COP, through the CST, on issues such as the transfer of technology, capacity-building and financial support

D. Reporting

37. Panels reports should be submitted to the COP through the CST.

E. Financing

38. The financing of panels should not compromise their independance.

39. The COP should provide the necessary funds to enable ad hoc panels to carry out their tasks.